DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON

MIKE SPICER

TRANSFORMERS

image

#04

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE FOUR

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SKYWARP!

=HKKKK=-- STAR... SCREAM.... HELP ME...

IN TIME, MY FRIEND, IN TIME. BUT FIRST... WHERE DID THEY GO?

THEY DROVE EAST...HE WANTS TO SAVE THESE...**SLUGS.**

PATHETIC. AND NOT SURPRISING.

STARSCREAM... **WAIT!**

CHAK CHO KHAKA KHEE

DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE BACK.

TRANSFORM

"I JUST HAVE SOME KILLING TO DO."

RATCHET! RATCHET, COME IN!

OPTIMUS! WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'VE TAKEN MAJOR DAMAGE!

HUMAN SPIKE IS HURT!

VRRVN

VNNHH

GET BACK HERE, COWARDS!

KRROOO

KRRZ

WE NEED HELP!

CRE-EE-E

GRAH!!!

SHHH HHHH

OPTIMUS? ARE YOU THERE?!

SORRY, BUDDY. YOUR TIME'S GONNA HAVE TO WAIT.

RIGHT NOW, WE NEED FIREPOWER

SPIKE!

OH NO, OH NO...

FINALLY!

YOUR TIME IS UP.

YRAL

BRACE YOURSELVES!

LAST CHANCE TO DITCH, CARLY!

ARE YOU KIDDING?

VRRR

CREEEE

AGH!

!

CRUNCH

THANK YOU, CLIFFJUMPER!

GAHHH!!

ANYTHING FOR MY FEARLESS LEADER! NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

SOUNDWAVE! SEND BACKUP! **NOW!**

EMERGENCY

FRAMINGHAM HOSPITAL

EMERGENCY

WE'RE HERE!

KHEE KHEE CHAK

PLEASE... HELP MY FRIEND--

UH-- IS THAT--?

HELP! MY SON'S BEEN SHOT!

ZARP ZAP ZAP

EMERGENCY

LOOK OUT!

GET HIM INSIDE!

HURRY! WE WILL COVER YOU!

BOOM

CHOMCHOM

PEEW PEEW PEEW

ZAK ZAK

WHA-?

AUTOBOT SWINE!

CLIFFJUMPER!

OPTIMUS: INFERIOR.

-HUKKK-

WAIT.

WHY DO WE HESITATE?

THIS...

THIS IS WHERE THEY...

FARMINGHAM HOSPITAL

CY EME

FIX THE SQUISHY ONES.

IS THAT RIGHT?

YOU'RE SO PATHETIC I CAN'T EVEN **BELIEVE** IT! YOU BRING THESE ANTS TO A PLACE TO GET **REPAIRED**?

DOC?!
LET US WORK, SPARKY.
WE'RE LOSING HIM!
INTUBATING NOW!
I THINK, BEFORE YOU LEAVE US, WE SHOULD MAKE YOUR ENDING A LITTLE **MORE** PAINFUL!
NO...
ZOW
BY BLASTING THE VERY PLACE THAT CAN SAVE YOUR PRECIOUS HUMANS!
FARMIN
HOSP
EM
WE JUST LOST POWER!
THE GENERATOR MUST'VE BEEN HIT!
ZOKK ZOKK ZOKK!
HAHAHA!
EMERG
STARSCREAM!

AUTOBOTS INCOMING!

JAZZ! DO WHAT YOU DO BEST!

RRRR-RRR

TIME TO CHANGE UP THIS TUNE, BABY!

ALL RIGHT!!!

GET HIM!

TWO!
FIVE!
OW!!
STARSC
ONE!!!

WHAT DO YOU SAY, DECEPTICONS?

SHALL WE FINISH IT?

CHK-CHAK

CHK-CHAK

ZOWK ZOWK

ZOWK ZOWK

WE ARE OUTNUMBERED, SOUNDWAVE! RETREAT! **RETREAT!**

ZAKK ZAKK

GIT GIT

OPTIMUS!

CARLY... IS SPIKE...?

POWER'S STILL OUT.

WHAT... DOES THAT MEAN?

WE'VE STABILIZED SPIKE FOR NOW.

YOUR SON NEEDS A MACHINE TO KEEP HIM BREATHING, BUT ONE OF THESE BASTARDS HIT THE BACKUP GENERATOR.

"AND WITH THAT GONE..."

IT WON'T JUST BE YOUR SON THAT DIES TONIGHT.

SPIKE... I'M HERE, BUDDY. IT'S OKAY.

IT'S OKAY.

OH, MY BOY.

MY BEAUTIFUL BOY.

UH, WHAT IS HE DOING?

OPTIMUS, NO--

NO MORE DEATH, RATCHET.

EVEN IF IT COMES AT A PRICE...

NO MORE DEATH.

THE POWER! IT'S COME BACK ON!

NO WAY...

THE MACHINES! THEY'RE RUNNING AGAIN! WE'RE IN BUSINESS! LET'S GET HIM TO THE I.C.U.!

OH, THANK GOD...

NOT GOD...

THANK... METAL?

THIS MARKS THE SECOND TIME WE HAVE FAILED IN OUR MISSION. IF THERE IS EVEN A MISSION. NO GOALS. NO CONQUEST. ONLY DESTRUCTION. IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE IN YOUR MIND, STARSCREAM?

THIS ISN'T MY FAULT! YOU CAN'T REPAIR TELETRAAN 1!

WE NEED BODIES! LOOK AT ALL OUR BROTHERS SCATTERED HERE, USELESS! WE NEED FIXING!

LOOK AT MY DENTS AND LASER BURNS! I NEED FIXING!

AS WAS SAID BEFORE: WE DO NOT HAVE THE MATERIALS NEEDED FOR SUCH REPAIRS. THEY ONLY EXIST--

UH... GUYS...

IN CYBERTRONIAN TECHNOLOGY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? BROTHERS?

STOP. STOP! NO--

WHEN I GOT BACK FROM THE WAR...I WANTED TO PROTECT YOU. FROM WHERE I GREW UP. FROM EVERYTHING. IT'S WHY I MOVED US ALL THE WAY OUT HERE. TO START OVER.

THE WORLD... IT CAN BE SO AWFUL. I...I CAN'T SEE THE GOOD IN IT ANYMORE. I USED TO. BUT NOT SINCE THE WAR. NOT SINCE--

NOT SINCE YOUR BROTHER.

IT'S LIKE I'M...INFECTED. IT'S WITH ME ALL THE TIME, AND SPREADS TO THE ONES I LOVE THE MOST.

I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW TO SEE THE GOOD.

AND NOW YOU'RE NOT HERE TO REMIND ME.

EXCUSE ME...

MR. OPTIMUS?

YES?

I HEARD YOU CAN... CHANGE INTO A TRUCK. IS THAT TRUE?

INDEED IT IS, YOUNG HUMAN.

UM... CAN YOU SHOW ME?

I AM A LITTLE WORSE FOR THE WEAR...

BUT GLADLY.

OH! MY! GOD! AWESOME!!!

DID YOU SAVE HIM?

AIR PUNCH!

MY SON?

THAT WAS NOT ME.

OH MY GOD AND THEN YOU CAN CHANGE BACK--

I WAS SIMPLY SHARING A GIFT I WAS GIVEN, MANY YEARS AGO.

CAN YOU... DO IT AGAIN? HE'S...HE'S IN A COMA. CAN YOU BRING HIM BACK TO ME? ALL THE WAY?

I USED EVERY BIT OF WHAT WAS LEFT. THERE IS NOTHING MORE. WHAT HAPPENS NOW...IS UP TO THE GREAT SPARK.

YOU MEAN... GODS? DON'T *YOU* FALL INTO THAT CATEGORY?

HA! BECAUSE OF MY SIZE? I COULD SAY THE SAME OF YOU, HUMAN.

WHAT, ME? I'M NOTHING LIKE--COME ON. LOOK AT ME, COMPARED TO YOU!

TRUE. SMALL.

BUT STILL MIGHTY.

IT TOOK SOME MAJOR DOING, BUT I WAS ABLE TO FIX THE HUMANS' GENERATOR. THE MATRIX--

IT WILL BE FINE, RATCHET.

NO, OPTIMUS. IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MATRIX. IT'S ABOUT **YOU.** THE MATRIX CHANNELS THE SPIRIT OF THE HOST, AND WHEN IT'S USED, IT DRAINS **YOU.** AND WE NEED YOU.

YOU COULD HAVE USED IT TO REPAIR YOUR BROKEN BODY, HELP BUILD A FRESH ARM! BUT NOT ANYMORE. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT AFTER...

AFTER SAVING AN INNOCENT CREATURE? WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO, RATCHET? LET HIM DIE? WE BROUGHT THIS HERE! THEY ARE INNOCENT!!

THEY ARE **NOT** INNOCENT! YOU SAW WHAT THEY DID TO SPIKE! ONE OF THEIR **OWN!** THEY'RE PRONE TO ANGER AND DESTRUCTION!

JUST LIKE US.

-HKK--

slump

JAZZ?!

I POOLED ALL THE ENERGON WE HAD LEFT, FROM ALL OUR FELLOW AUTOBOTS' BODIES, BUT IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH, EVEN FOR ONE WARRIOR. THERE WAS JUST ENOUGH FOR JAZZ TO HELP US SAVE YOU. AND YOUR HUMANS.

ONLY HERE FOR ONE TUNE? SUCKS.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, JAZZ. YOU'VE DONE WELL. REST NOW.

IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT **OURSELVES,** OPTIMUS. IF YOU DIE, WE ALL DIE. AND IF WE'RE GONE, THE DECEPTICONS TAKE OVER. AND WHAT WILL BE LEFT OF HUMANITY THEN? IF THEY'RE EVEN WORTH SAVING?

THEY ARE WORTH SAVING, RATCHET. EVERYTHING IS.

...

WELL, I CAN'T HEAL YOU, OR ANYONE ELSE FOR THAT MATTER, UNTIL WE FIND A WAY TO GET OURSELVES SOME ENERGON.

BUT I HAVE ONE MORE THING THAT MIGHT HELP US GET BACK THE INITIATIVE.

RATCHET. NO. I CAN'T USE THIS.

SLAM!

YOU ARE WOUNDED AND BARELY STANDING. WE'RE THE LAST OF OUR KIND, FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL. WE NEED THIS.

WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

UH, HEY.

YOUR ENERGY PROBLEM.

I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA.

ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?

SORRY.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, YOU KNOW.

OH YEAH? HOW'S THAT?

STARSCREAM KILLED MY ENTIRE CLAN.

CLAN?

LIKE...YOUR FATHER? YOUR MOTHER? THEY ARE--WERE-- YOUR CLAN.

MY FAMILY.

BEFORE HE TOOK YOURS... HE TOOK--ALL--OF MINE. I JOINED THE WAR THE NEXT DAY.

DOES THIS FEELING GO AWAY? DOES IT GET EASIER?

OH, CARLY.

CLIFFJUMPER.

OPTIMUS...

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT GOING ON THE OFFENSIVE?

HURRRGHHAAHHGGHHH!

DROOGGG

HAHA! VICTORY!

I AM THE DECEPTICON LEADER!

"TODAY!"

TOMORROW!

"FOREVER!"

TO BE CONTINUED...

Hey gang,

Happy New Year! Welcome to the issue #4 letters page, the first of 2024! By now, not only did you make it through the high drama of Optimus Prime use his own arm as a weapon, but you've now seen him equipped with MEGATRON'S arm! Dan, I think you're spoiling folks!

Gotta give credit where credit is due, that arm ripping scene is a homage to one of my favorite anime shows of all time, GUNDAM the 08TH MS TEAM. I wouldn't be drawing robots as an adult without Gundam, so watch that series if you haven't yet!!! On to letters!

As I read this first issue I can't help but notice how you guys absolutely hit it out of the park with everything! the characters, the art, the classic G1 feeling. Everything is perfect However I am curious to know as the story goes on will we see more of the characters stay faithful to their G1 designs or will we see more unique designs for the bots and cons in the future? Maybe even new characters? I am on the edge of my seat for the next issue and the many more years of followed success for you guys! Congrats and continue the amazing work!

We're all major G1 heads here, and that's our primary visual inspiration for now. We love the character lineup we've got so far, but you can bet we've barely scratched the surface!

Gio from Philadelphia

Thanks Gio! "Stay tuned" is what I'll say. We are starting from a familiar place, but before long you might see some new things that haven't been done before.

Hello Transformers team! I just finished issue 1 of Transformers and absolutely loved it. This is my first time EVER reading a Transformers comic book. I loved the toys and the shows as a kid but never really got into the comic for some reason. With that being said, when I saw that this run was being made and saw the numerous Starscream covers, I knew I had to finally jump in. Starscream has always been my favorite Decepticon so I was very excited to see that he was getting some love in this story. I loved how he was portrayed in issue 1 and I can't wait to see more of him in the future. I loved both the art and the story for this first issue and cannot wait to read more each month. Thank you for finally getting me to pickup a Transformers comic because it's something I should have done a long time ago. See y'all next month!

Cason Jones
Sulphur Springs, Texas

It's never too late to jump into Transformers comics! And obviously, now's the perfect time! We're beyond excited for this to be a jumping on point for new readers as well as a worthy reimagining for longtime fans of any or all the comics. Thanks for reading!

All Hail Starscream!

Any series that decides to make Starscream the main bad guy has got my money forever. Starscream is one of the truly indelible villains of pop culture, endowed with a clearly delineated, totally engaging character. I would hate my life if I had a co-worker with Starscream's personality, but I will read comics about the transigent Decepticon with enthusiasm.

This unhinged robot will never be not fun to read!

And so, I have to suggest Super-Star Screamers for the lettercol. No? This isn't a comic only about the

null-ray-blasting whiner with dreams of being a superstar? Near and Far Screamers? Above Par Screamers? Victoire Screamers? Memoir Screamers, for all our nostalgic Transformers memories? Motorcar Screamers, to reference both the Autobots and the Decepticons? Letters in a Jar Screamers?

And the race is on! Who'll have the winning name? Let's roll out and find out!

Chris

PS I could literally hear Soundwave's voice effect in my ears when reading his speech bubbles. This issue was perfect.

Thanks, Chris! Many thanks to Rus Wooton, our letterer, who came up with the blue speech balloon all on his own. He's a welcome addition to the TF team!

Ever since the 2005 run of Transformers comics ended in 2019, I've really been hoping for a series that balances maturity into the brand that we've loved for nearly 40 years. I feel bad for Dave, but I think Starscream crushing him really shows that y'all know these characters, and are willing to push the envelope past what we've previously seen.

Poor Dave.

I think it's really cool that you guys brought back the OG human characters, Spike and Sparkplug, and I love that y'all updated their dynamic to be a little more relatable than it was in the 80s. Carly is great, of course, with her awesome van mural that's "missing something" (something Cybertronian, obviously). Now, if only there were some wheelchair-using human tech genius who could help fix up Teletrann 1? *wink wink nudge nudge*

We really wanted to honor and celebrate the iconic, classic elements from the franchise that we grew up loving. But still wanted to make sure the series offered something new to the incredible legacy of the Transformers.

More humans are on their way! I want to keep them in the mix for a good while.

Anyway, awesome work, and I'm really looking forward to the next one!

Sincerely,
The Texas Terrorcon

Texas you are the best! Thanks for writing in.

To the transformers team your 3rd issue comes out on my birthday lol so by the time this email is hopefully in the comic it will be my birthday lol so thanks for my birthday present just like how every issue feels like one to me.

Happy birthday!

Not gonna lie, this issue would be an amazing birthday present. It's the best one yet! HAPPY BDAY!!!

Thanks for reading, y'all! See ya next month when the Autobots bring the fight to the Decepticons! Don't forget to pick up the first issue of our next Energon Universe series, COBRA COMMANDER, next week. Turn the page and check it out!

-Jonathan

A quick plug before I go: I do a Director's Commentary on YouTube for all the issues of TRANSFORMERS I'm writing and drawing. Just google my YouTube and you'll find it. It's a fun behind the scenes look at how I go about making this comic, and *I think* it's a great time. See you next month!

-DWJ

UH, WHAT'LL BE, STRANGER?

I HAVE NEED OF A VEHICLE.

SSSPEAK NOW IF YOU CAN BE OF ASSSISTANCE.

HA! HOW THE HELL YOU GET ALL THE WAY OUT HERE WITHOUT A TRUCK, BUDDY?!

AND WHAT'S WITH THE LISP?

SMACK

DANG CIRCUS IS IN TOWN, AND NO ONE TOLD US, BOYS.

GOOD LUCK! IT'S COLD OUT THERE!

YOUR VEHICLE WILL DO NICELY.

NOW WHAT THE HECK IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WHAT YA GOT THERE, WEIRDO?

THAT SOME KIND OF *TOY?*

NO MAN'S LAND

REST STOP AND PUB

DRUNK?

ZZZRTTRUKTKTK

AHHHHHHHH

HEY, JIMMY, YOU FORGOT TO PAY, DAMMIT.

NO MAN'S LAND
REST STOP AND PUB

DRINK?

CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D JUST TAKE OFF LIKE THAT.

THAT SONOFA... HIS TRUCK IS GONE...

OH, JESUS...

WHAT...?

FFFF

THE COBRA THREAT BEGINS HERE

COBRA COMMANDER

Red-hot writer **JOSHUA WILLIAMSON** (*Superman, DUKE*) and **ANDREA MILANA** (*Impact Winter: Rook*) introduce the best, and worst, humanity has to offer. **COBRA COMMANDER** Enters the Energon Universe **JANUARY 2024**!

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